

Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

Received & Inspected

MAY 21 2010

FCC Mail Room

Federal
Communications
Commission
445 Twelfth Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners Copps, McDowell, Clyburn, and Baker,

Video Relay Service allows deaf individuals to communicate by phone in American Sign Language. This life-altering broadband service is a vital link that connects deaf people to the hearing community.

Ensuring that deaf individuals have access to VRS and encouraging improvements in VRS should be a high priority for you as Chairman and Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires the FCC to make available to all deaf individuals nationwide "functionally equivalent" communications.

You will soon determine the future of VRS. When you set the VRS rate, you will determine whether America makes progress toward the statutory goals of functional equivalence, nationwide access, and inclusion – or force deaf users to revert to TTY communications. And, you will determine whether VRS fulfills its potential to drive broadband adoption by the deaf, even in the face of disproportionate poverty, disenfranchisement, and isolation.

I was deeply disturbed to see the Commission's recent Public Notice on VRS rates. These proposals will put VRS providers out of business and mean an end to VRS.

You should be increasing the availability and use of VRS, not cutting back. You should adopt a rate that encourages continuing improvements in VRS technology. Recent developments in VRS are a good example of how the service can be improved, such as enhanced 911 services, 10-digit numbering, a larger and better-trained pool of interpreters, and better videophones with an array of enhanced features. Monthly payments for broadband are a big expense for many deaf people, and instead of trying to cut back on VRS, you should be exploring ways to make VRS over broadband more affordable to deaf individuals.

Progress toward functional equivalence will be destroyed if the FCC does not encourage VRS providers to improve VRS and make it more widely available. VRS is a recent and dramatic advancement that benefits those who are deaf, but so much more can be done. It would be tragic if the FCC were to destroy this broadband service that is so vital to the deaf.

I urge you to establish a fair and predictable rate for VRS that will encourage VRS providers to invest in improving VRS and reaching more deaf individuals. The law requires it and it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Signature *Loopy G. Attwell* Date 5/21/10

Name Loopy G. Attwell

Address 11 Congress Street

City Burlington State Pa. ZIP 16801

Email loopyg@attwell.net

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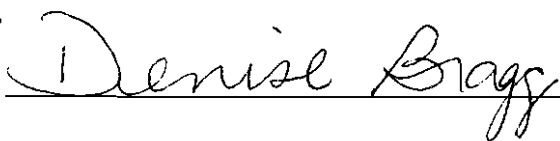
As a member of the deaf community, I am writing today to support the VRS rate proposal filed by Sorenson Communications. VRS was the first, and remains the best, broadband-based form of relay service. VRS allows me to use American Sign Language, my native language, to communicate across distance. Using VRS, I can make appointments and communicate with my family and friends. Because VRS is so essential in my everyday life, it is very important to me that the FCC establish a rate that ensures that VRS continues to thrive; Sorenson's proposal will do just that.

Sorenson proposes that the rate for all VRS providers be set at \$5.95 per minute for 2010-11 and reduced by 1% for the following four years. Establishing a five-year plan will maintain a stable business environment, enabling providers to set long-term goals, make long-term investments, and improve service to the deaf community. Setting a single rate that decreases each year will ensure that all providers compete on a "level playing field" and become more efficient every year.

Sorenson's proposal will allow VRS providers to continue to meet the needs of the deaf community and to advance the Americans with Disabilities Act's goals of improving technology, efficiency, nationwide access to communications, and functional equivalence.

Sincerely,

Signature



Date

5/17/2010

DENISE bragg
3456 brinkley road apt 102
tmeple hill, MD 20748
blissinglady44@aol.com

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Sincerely,

Signature Cindy Martinez Date 5/15/10

Name Cindy Martinez

Address 109 Spruce Court #104

City VA. Beach State VA. ZIP 23452

Email CindyMartinez232@yahoo.com

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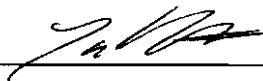
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Sincerely,

Signature



Date 5-16-2010

Tahir Rathore
7300 EastGate Lane
Alexandria, VA 22315
tahirrathore@hotmail.com

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Sincerely,

Signature

Antoine Martinez

Date

5/15/10

Name

Antoine Martinez

Address

109 Spruce Court #104

City

VA Beach

State

VA

ZIP

23452

Email

Cindy.martinez.232@yahoo.com

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Signature  Date 5-16-2010

Tahir Rathore
Defense Security Service
1340 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314
tahir.rathore@dss.mil

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Sincerely,

Signature Cheryl A. Sparlock

Date 5-14-2010

Name Cheryl A. Sparlock

Address 328 Douglas Ct

City Richmond

State Ky

ZIP 40475-1825

Email CATS59@Excite.com

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Sincerely,

Signature Ricky D Spurluck Date 5-14-2010

Name Ricky D. Spurluck

Address 328 Douglas Ct.

City Richmond State KY ZIP 40475-1825

Email CATS59@Excite.com

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Name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Email

Sen: Fredricks

103 Fawn Run Dr.

Georgetown

KY

40324

looty_mae@bellsouth.net

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Signature

Montana A. Houchins

Date

5/15/2010

Name

Montana A. Houchins

Address

516 Sugar Loaf Dr S.W.

City

Roanoke

State

VA

ZIP

24018-2252

Email

VP 866 288 4105

Deaf

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Sincerely,

Signature

Patty Klingler

Date

5/12/2010

Name

Patty Klingler

Address

4691 Route 208

City

Knox

State

PA

ZIP

16232

Email

PKlingler@Atlanticbb.net

*work Communication 911 and Interpreter.
bad T.T.Y. is Mix text. I don't understand text by
T.T.Y.*

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Date

May 12, 2010

Name

Shirley Fetzner

Address

1078 Bert Circle

City

Tenn,

~~PA~~

~~PA~~

State

PA

ZIP

15675-9579

Email

~~Shirley Fetzner~~ Wiveberry30@hotmail

The attached document is part of a mass mailing. The number of identical documents as specified in the File Number/City, St. field have been received by the Commission on this same date. You may view the documents at the FCC Reference Information Center, at 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC, Room CY-A257.